

## Message Text

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62

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ VN: PCOLLINS: GB

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APPROVED BY EUR: JAARMITAGE

EUR/ EE: HKAISER

EUR/ EE: RGJOHNSON

EUR/ EE: JABAKER

EA/ VN: LBASKEW

EUR: JAARMITAGE

S/ S- O: RWRIGHT

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P 112346 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 090900

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS (3)

TAGS: PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR AMBASSADOR' S ANTICIPATED  
MEETING WITH TITO

REF: BELGRADE 2011

1. DESPITE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF FIGHTING IN VIOLATION OF THE CEASEFIRE, THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN SOUTH VIET- NAM HAS NOT CHANGED SUBSTANTIALY FROM THAT WHICH PREVAILED AT THE END OF JANUARY. THE PREPONDERANCE OF THE FAULT FOR THE VIOLATIONS IS WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND FORCES UNDER THEIR CONTROL; THEIR MOST SERIOUS VIOLATIONS INCLUDE INFILTRATION OF MEN AND MATERIAL, CONTINUING NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS, AND AGGRESSIVE MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE TWO SOUTHERNMOST MILITARY REGIONS OF SOUTH VIET- NAM. THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET- NAM HAVE ADOPTED A BASICALLY DEFENSIVE

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POSTURE AT PRESIDENT THIEU' S SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS.

2. DESPITE THE VIOLATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION IS POSSIBLE. THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING THROUGHOUT MOST OF SOUTH VIET- NAM IS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED; ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY THAT THIS REPRESENTS A STABILIZATION OF THE SITUATION, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS ULTIMATELY WILL TURN OUT TO BE THE CASE.

3. THE US IS DOING ALL IT REASONABLY CAN TO SEE THAT THE SITUATION DOES EVOLVE TOWARD AN ENDURING PEACE. WE HAVE CONVEYED TO HANOI, BY WORD AND ACTION, OUR CONCERN AT THE SERIOUS NORTH VIETNAMESE VIOLATIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE STRICTURES HAVE HAD THEIR EFFECT, AND WE HOPE THAT DURING THE UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER AND LE DUC THO, WE CAN FURTHER BRING HANOI TO REALIZE THAT ITS BEST OPTION IS POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY ACTION.

4. WE ARE ALSO MAINTAINING A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET- NAM ON THE WHOLE QUESTION OF MOVING TOWARD PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND REHABILITATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT. WE URGE FRIENDS OF NORTH VIET- NAM SIMILARLY TO USE THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE. ROGERS

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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